

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee
Tactical Air Land Subcommittee
Curt Weldon, Chairman



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Statement of Chairman Curt Weldon
Markup of H.R. 4200
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005

Today we meet in open session to markup H.R. 4200, the National Defense Authorization Bill for fiscal year 2005.

This subcommittee has jurisdiction of approximately 1,000 programs and projects in procurement and research, development, test and evaluation in the military services and defense agencies, totaling \$50 billion in the fiscal year 2005 request.

Included in the recommendation before you is an authorization for an additional \$1.7 billion above the President's request to Congress.

In making these recommendations our focus has been on how best to support our military and civilian personnel serving in the global war on terrorism.

Consequently we have added authorization for a number of programs, including:

8 HH-60 helicopters,

\$176 million for Predator UAVs for increased surveillance capability, particularly for countering the improvised explosive device threat,

Increased authorization of \$184 million for ammunition and the ammunition industrial base,

\$95 million for 114 remotely operated weapon systems and 52 optical surveillance systems,

\$89 million for SHARP reconnaissance and advanced targeting pods,

\$65 million additional for modernization and reactive armor for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle,

\$42 million for Hellfire missiles,

– continued –

\$35 million for the Light Weight 155 howitzer for the Army National Guard,

\$30 million for 52 improvised explosive device counter measures jammers,

\$16 million for Javelin missiles,

\$16 million for Shadow UAV enhancements,

\$14 million for the H-1 night targeting and infrared system, and

Increased authorization is also included for CH-47 crashworthy crew seats, personnel radios, night vision equipment, and light weight satellite terminals.

In addition, in the full committee markup we hope to add an additional \$2.7 billion in procurement for Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force unfunded requirements as part of the supplemental for programs under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee. Two major elements of the increased authorization are: over \$700 million for up-armored HUM-VEES and \$500 million for aviation combat loss replacement. The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Simmons, has played a vital role in ensuring that the up-armored HUM-VEES be given the highest priority during our consideration of the budget request.

Other major initiatives include:

Legislation that would require the Secretary of Defense, in the allocation of equipment acquired using funds authorized for procurement, give priority to units that are deployed to, or preparing to deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, regardless of the designation of those units as active, Guard, or reserve component units; and

Multiyear procurement authorization for the Lightweight 155 Howitzer.

Reductions of \$500 million from the administration's request, including:

A non-prejudicial reduction of \$220M made to the \$780M request for the VHXX Presidential Helicopter Replacement Program because of a program slip of at least six months; and a

\$250M reduction from the \$3.2 billion request for the Future Combat Systems program, which is deemed to be excess to requirements.

Increased authorization is also recommended for numerous procurement and R&D programs of the military services and defense agencies as indicated in the listing before you.

I believe that this mark funds the priorities of the Members and unfunded priorities of the Department of Defense and recommend adoption of this mark.

Before recognizing the gentleman from Hawaii, I would like to thank him for his support in putting together this mark.

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